

County News and Views

MARCH 2002

From the Office of Fifth District Supervisor Jerry Eaves

Department of Motor Vehicles Offices Now Open Some Saturdays

In an effort to meet customer needs, participating Department of Motor Vehicles(DMV) offices have initiated new office hours featuring Saturday service once a month. Thursday evening service has been discontinued. This change became effective February 2002. Offices participating in this schedule will have regular Monday through Friday office hours, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm with Wednesdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. However, in the one week that features Saturday service, office hours will change to Tuesday through Friday, 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, Wednesdays from 8:30 am to 5:30 pm with Saturdays open from 8:00 to 12:00 noon.

Saturday service is available at participating locations on April 15, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17, September 21, October 19, November 16, December 21 and January 11, 2003. The DMV expects Saturday service to be very popular, so don't forget to call in advance for an appointment. If you have questions, please call (800) 777-0133.

The DMV still recommends alternate service methods to address the majority of DMV needs. Most business, with the exception of photos, can be done by mail, phone (800)777-0133

New Laws For Motorists

California motorists faced a number of new laws enacted by the Governor and Legislature. Most of these took effect on January 1, 2002.

Children Unattended in Vehicles

SB 255 prohibits leaving a child six years of age or younger in a motor vehicle if conditions present a significant risk, the engine is running or the key is left in the ignition. Penalties include a \$100 fine.

Child Passenger Restraint Systems

SB 567 requires child safety seats be used for all children until they are at least six years old or weigh 60 pounds. Children under six years old but weighing 60 pounds or more must be properly secured in a child passenger restraint system or safety belt. Similarly, children between the ages of six and 16 must be properly secured in a child passenger restraint system or safety belt. The new law authorizes law enforcement officers to stop a vehicle transporting children under the age of 16 if it is believed that the children are not properly restrained. Violations can result in fines of \$100 for the first offense and \$250 for a subsequent offense. In addition, a conviction will result in a one-point violation on the driver's record.

Dumping Animals on Highways

SB 237 seeks to prevent the illegal abandoning of an unwanted animal on a highway. Abandoning or dumping any animal is a crime punishable by a fine of up to \$1,000 or a six month jail term, or both.

Distracted Driving

AB 770 requires law enforcement to report instances of driver distraction or inattention that may have caused or contributed to a traffic collision.

CALENDAR

San Bernardino County Free Dump Day

Saturday, April 13

8:00 am to 1:00 pm

COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER

385 N. Arrowhead Avenue, Fifth Floor

San Bernardino, CA 92415-0110

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